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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Thomas Patterson Hartness	Examiner:
Serial No.: 10/068,601	
Filed: 02/05/2002	Group No. 3721
For: CONTINUOUS CIRCULAR MOTION CASE PACKING AND DEPACKING APPARATUS AND METHOD	
	Docket No. HIE10C1

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims by canceling original claims 1-19, and adding new claims 76-118 for examination, as follows:

Claims 1-75 (cancelled).

Claim 76 (new). A continuous circular motion apparatus for packing articles into cases comprising:

a pickup station where the articles are picked up and a release station where the articles are released for packing into the cases;

an article conveyor for conveying said articles in a linear article path through said article pickup station;

a case conveyor having a common transport surface for supporting and transporting a plurality of indexed cases along an arcuate case transport path;

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